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Also prior to examination, please add the following new claim and substitute it for previously designated Claim 77 as one of the provisionally elected claims:

164. Apparatus as in Claim 1 or 11 comprising a plurality of said receptors or said ice sources and said conduit having an intermediate division point from which a plurality of branch conduits extend, each branch conduit leading directly or through at least one intermediate further division point from which a subsequent plurality of further branch conduits extend, to an ice communication connection with a respective one of said plurality of receptors or ice sources.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of July 28, 2000, the Examiner requested revision of the claims provisional elected for examiner by Applicants, to remove "provisional amendments" and "provisional combinations" or claims. Applicants have complied herein, and have changed "provisional amendments" to regular amendments.

Applicants have also added new Claim 164, which is a composite of non-elected Claims 77 and 86. It is believed that forming this composite is properly responsive to the Examiner's requirement of twenty claims, since Claims 77 and 86 are equivalent for search purposes and define, respectively, diverters with multiple outlets and inlets. Since the subject matter of new Claim 164 has previously been present in Claims 77 and 86, no new matter is added by this amendment. Claim 77 has been removed from the list of elected claims made in the prior Response.

Applicants recognize that the Examiner must examine the elected claims according to the appropriate Rules and the directions of the M.P.E.P., and Applicants' attorney apologizes if the statements in the prior Response inadvertently seemed to the Examiner to suggest otherwise. All Applicants intended by those statements was to note that since they have presented arguments in the prior Response which they believe traverses the multiplicity and prolixity rejection, they reserve their right in the future to urge allowance of

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the non-elected claims following examination of the elected claims designated above.

FEES

A Fee Transmittal sheet (Form PTO/SB/17) is submitted herewith for the fee calculated as being due with respect to the amendment to add new Claim 164, and the Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 02-4070. However, should such fee be calculated incorrectly, the Patent and Trademark Office is also authorized to charge any additional fee, or credit any overpayment, to said Deposit Account No. 02-4070.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims elected have been placed in proper form for examination, and such examination is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of the issues, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney, collect, at the telephone number listed below, is cordially invited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 9, 2000

By: 

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